

Message

From: Wahlstrom-Ramler, Meghan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6E06B0D240D84CA59788C6C431758DE2-WAHLSTROM-R]
Sent: 11/26/2019 9:15:48 PM
To: R4NPDES.Kampachi@epa.gov
Subject: FW: Public Comment: Velella Epsilon net-pen Aquaculture Gulf of Mexico

Meghan Wahlstrom | Environmental Engineer | Permitting & Grants Branch | Water Division
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From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 12:47 AM
To: Wahlstrom-Ramler, Meghan <Wahlstrom-Ramler.Meghan@epa.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: Velella Epsilon net-pen Aquaculture Gulf of Mexico

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP). I have a masters in Environmental Science (with a focus in sustainable aquaculture) from FGCU.

While I support developing offshore aquaculture around Florida; as they say, the devil is in the details. For example while the production of wastewater is obviously unavoidable...yes fish poop. A permit for discarding chemicals and antibiotics is not required and is symptomatic of unhealthy fish and overstocking.

We must demand the highest ecological standards for companies seeking permits to operate in our waters. And this system (small as it may be) helps set a precedent and standard for larger operations in the future.

Require Kampachi farms to operate with low-stocking and no chemical or antibiotic inputs! They should also be required to utilize bio-filter species to minimize the impact of nutrient waste.

I encourage you to read about IMTA aquaculture, which is sustainable and cost effective. <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/sci-res/imta-amti/index-eng.htm>

You should also contact Dr. Mike Parsons (mparsons@fgcu.edu) from FGCU regarding native high value seaweed that can be used as a biofilter with a market value higher than tuna per kg.

Thank you for your time,

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